

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] This application is a continuation of United States Patent Application No.

10/141,550 entitled, "Modularized Infusion Pump Apparatus" filed May 6, 2002.

hmv U.S. Patent No.
6,800,069

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. The Field of the Invention

[002] The present invention relates to infusion devices. More particularly the present invention relates to a pressure infuser apparatus for use with an infusion device, the pressure infuser apparatus having a modular configuration allowing a user to interchangeably utilize one or more manual and/or motorized pump modules to modify the configuration of the pressure infuser apparatus to suit the changing infusion needs of a patient.

2. The Relevant Technology

[003] Infusion devices are used for the subcutaneous administration, to humans or animals, of intravenous fluids such as blood, nutrients, medicine, and saline. The fluids are stored and administered from pliant infusate bags typically made from plastic film materials. The infusate bags facilitate the administration of infusate fluids, while limiting the amount of air that is transferred to the patient with the fluid.

[004] Infusion devices allow fluids to be administered to patients in a variety of manners. A common administration technique involves suspending an infusate bag from a hook or peg and allowing gravity to provide the force needed to deliver the fluid to the patient by means of a delivery line. Where suspension administration is utilized, the infusate bag includes an outlet tube at the lower end of the bag. A delivery tube is attached to the outlet tube for delivering the fluid from the bag to the patient. The delivery tube usually includes

WORKMAN NYDEGGER
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER
60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111